

Press Release

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For Immediate Release

World AIDS Day 2005: Stop AIDS. Keep the Promise.

World AIDS Day honors the global effort toward building awareness and promoting prevention of HIV/AIDS. This annual event is also the day to commemorate the millions of lives affected by this disease and celebrate progress made in the battle against this pandemic. It also serves as a reminder that there are many challenges left in the fight against this disease.

The San Bernardino County Department of Public Health AIDS Program is proud to stand with thousands of national, regional and local HIV/AIDS service organizations across the country in observing World AIDS Day. This year's World AIDS Day event will be held at the San Bernardino City Hall Building, City Council Chambers Room, 300 North D Street, San Bernardino from 5:00pm to 8:00pm on Friday, December 2, 2005.

The 2005 World AIDS Day theme is, "Stop AIDS. Keep the Promise." The theme is aimed at governments, policy makers, groups and individuals to become involved in the care and respect of those living with HIV and AIDS. It reminds us that we need every individual to make a commitment and contribution in order to end this pandemic. Each one of us has a role to play in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

HIV/AIDS affects people around the world. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that approximately 40,000 new HIV infections occur each year in the United States. Locally, the first AIDS case in San Bernardino County was reported in 1983. Over the past 22 years the number of people living with HIV/AIDS in San Bernardino County has grown significantly. A total of 3,308 AIDS cases for both males and females were reported in San Bernardino County between 1983 and September 2005. San Bernardino County Department of Public Health reports the total number of people living with HIV/AIDS in San Bernardino County to be 2,635. The continual increase of HIV cases heightens the need for more prevention and risk-reduction measures.

To commemorate World AIDS Day 2005, the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health AIDS Program, in partnership with Bienestar Human Services, Foothill AIDS Project, Inland AIDS Project and other community based organizations, invites you to be a part of this event. The 2005 World AIDS Day event will feature free HIV antibody counseling and testing, informational booths, speakers, entertainment, gift raffles, and refreshments. All are welcome!

Date: Friday, December 2, 2005
Location: San Bernardino City Hall, City Hall Chambers Room, Lobby Level
300 North D Street
San Bernardino, CA 92418
Time: 5:00pm – 8:00pm

The San Bernardino County AIDS Program also provides ongoing clinical services for HIV antibody testing and counseling in the cities of San Bernardino, Hesperia, Ontario, and Barstow. For more information regarding Public Health clinical services, please contact:

San Bernardino County AIDS Program (909) 383-3060 or 1-800-255-6560